

# Mothers News

a brief journey from mucus to ashes

8

previously the Gotham Valley Broadcaster  
previously the We Hate Harry Potter Beat Us Up Club  
previously the Having A Great Day Outside Instead Of Editing A Stupid Newspaper All Weekend At The Last Minute Like A God Damn Idiot Show

write to: Mothers News c/o Rhododendron Festival PO Box 29081 Providence RI 02909 • <http://www.mothersnews.net> • [info@mothersnews.net](mailto:info@mothersnews.net)

"When a knave is in a plumbtree he hath neither friend nor kin."

## IN THE JUNE OF LIFE

Welcome to June! June is the sixth month of the year, exactly half way if you can believe it from December. Subsequently, the night of June 30th is Half Year's Eve, when you crisis about "what have I even done this year?" and most likely respond with "whatever, tonight was a really nice night, we stood around in a parking lot, then went to a thing, it was like a whatever nice night, no problem, if that's how it's going to be, no problem".

The etymology of the word "June" is disputed- some say the month is named after Juno (aka Hera), wife of Jupiter (aka Zeus). Another possible source is the Latin word "iuniores", meaning "younger ones," or even "juniors" (as opposed to the "maiores" ("elders", or "majors") for which the preceding month of May is named). That kind of makes sense but let's look at the facts (Greek names used for sake of convention):

- Hera (Juno) is often portrayed as majestic and solemn, and may bear a pomegranate in her hand, an emblem of fertile blood and death and a substitute for the narcotic capsule of the opium poppy.

- Hera is known to be jealous and vengeful, often towards Zeus' other lovers and children, and is feared and respected as one not to be trifled with (aka someone with whom trifling with will result in a seriously epic storyline, and stuff named after you in a "here's a bad idea no one should forget" way). Hera is the daughter of Cronos, the ruler of the Golden Age, and Rhea, who was literally the daughter of the sky and the earth. This is the source of her power and rage-- that she is the wife of Zeus is a funny complication.

- Animals sacred to Hera are the peacock and the cow, from which we get her Homeric epithet "Boôpis", meaning "cow eyed" (which survives today in the form of wide-eyed bimbo-archetype name "Boopie"). She's also associated with the cuckoo, which makes its appearance at this time of year, but the cuckoo isn't sacred to her, they just hang out together.



In short, what/who do you want to name a month after? Come on, no contest.

In the aniconic era, before the technology to make bomb-ass statues existed, Hera was worshipped in the form of a pillar, a wooden plank, or a pile of white wool. I'm sure we can all sympathize with a pile of white wool, but a plank? Kind of weird, right? But there's some cool parts too, right? As anyone who looks at stupid pictures on the internet could tell you, the plank is a current hot topic!

## PLANKING

"Planking" (as it's called in Australia, and subsequently in all english-speaking countries) or "the lying down game" (as it's called in Korea) is a fad currently in vogue whereby people pose for pictures in various settings pretending to be inanimate planks of wood. In addition to being a logical continuation of the zombie fad, and an expression of horizontal power structures, planking is basically the 2011 version of the early 20th century fad of flagpole sitting. Like the flagpole sit before it, planking is a personal echo of architectural vogue- as the flagpole sit spoke to the skyscraper, planking speaks to the sprawl. As there is no building so high that a scurrilous attention-getter cannot sit on top of it, there is no setting so monotonous that dynamic humanity cannot shame it by automannequinizing within. I think it's fair to say that what Apollo, whose symbol was the obelisk, was to the Apollonian 1920s, Hera (Juno, remember) may be to the current era. OK, this might seem like a bummer (she was a suckler of beasts, mother of monsters, and enemy of Hercules, whose chief lasting attribute was murderous jealousy) but she's a mother/maiden/widow, she's there in a pinch, she reconciled with Cool Herc eventually, and she did after all guide the Argonauts between Scylla and Charybdis, the original "rock and a hard place".

Oh, and in case lying down stiff as a board has too many negative connotations, remember there's also the column option: one of Hera's temples boasted 155 of them, which archaeologists believe were most likely just shooting up into open space unroofed, not holding up shit. As anyone who's ever seen a Barnett Newman retrospective could tell you, This Is A Cool Idea! So idea 1 is a plank, idea 2 is a collection of untapering lines impossibly parallel to each other and perpendicular to Heaven. Oh, and ceremonial bathing seems like a big concept too, there's one that's easily accomplished. Did anyone read this article all the way to the end? If so please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to this newspaper and we will send you a piece of the true cross absolutely free.

## HOLIDAYS IN JUNE

Hey, speaking of Cool Ideas and Endless Feminized Jutting, June is "Officially" the month of the unicorn. According to Finnish tradition, if you bathe naked in the morning dew on the morning of the 24th (or the after-midnight of the 23rd), you will stem the effects of aging for an entire year (ceremonial bathing again!). June 16th is Bloomsday, the day that James Joyce's ULYSSES took place. What do you do, have breakfast and walk around? Like 2 Live Crew, Ulysses was banned in the USA, and is now recognized as an ultimate mega-baroque hyperealization of a heretofore unexplored facet of the human condition, like a grey wad of nanobots designed to perfectly take apart and reassemble any working phonograph. If your town does not have a Bloomsday celebration, having breakfast and walking around by yourself is totally applicable, ditto going to a bar. Just a few days away is Juneteenth, which takes place on June 19th, and commemorates the day of the undeniable announcement of the end of explicit legal slavery in America. Take the day off.

Gay rights parades and celebrations often take place in late June, because that's when the Stonewall Riots happened- June 28th 1969. People sometimes use the word "gay" to mean "weak", which is completely insane- the Stonewall Riots were one of the few riots in American History that actually sent the police running. That's weak? To get ambushed in a small club with only one entrance/exit, while/because you are dancing with your partner, to fight your way out AND keep fighting once you're out AND go back the next night AND keep going? And win? You think that's weak? You ever fought for something? I'M RIGHT HERE.

June is the month with the longest daylight hours (in the northern hemisphere), the absolute longest day this year (aka the solstice) is the 21st, but meteorological summer begins (began) on JUNE 1st! I bet you thought it would never happen, but it did.



## SUMMER FOOD

### FROZEN BLUEBERRIES

The big food news this summer is that frozen blueberries are mega delicious, and additionally, they are a superfood. If you're making some food and wondering what you can put in it to make it super, so you can call it "Super-[that thing], Mothers News strongly recommends frozen blueberries (or regular). I don't care if you're making a just peanut butter sandwich, a yogurt milkshake, a salad, a bowl of granola, a plate of asparagus, a birthday cake, or a good strong drink, whatever the kind of food it is, you will find that frozen blueberries are a great ingredient to use, to flavorify and superify. They really are the best thing to put in food! Also they're whatever cheap at the supermarket, and if you live near a farm you can buy a ton of them locally/seasonally, then freeze. And lest we forget, by buying blueberries you are supporting the crust punk economy. Here's to you, crusty, hopping trains to fetid camps to harvest blueberries and having cool bonfires and tattooing your face and having a cool smell. You are the wind beneath my wings... and to blueberries... they are delicious...

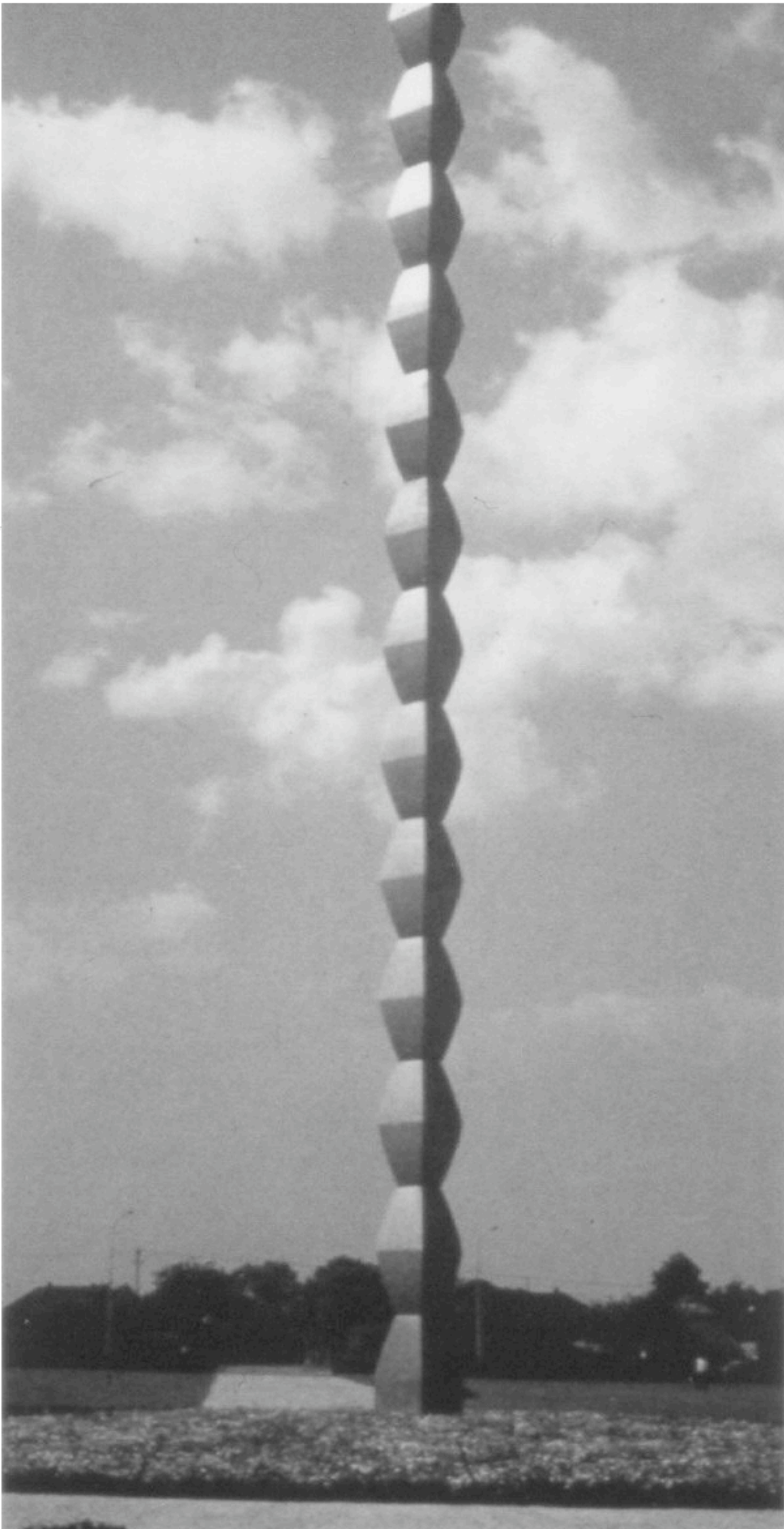
### SNACKS

There's a great part in the Jonathan Richman song "Parties in the USA" (not to be confused with the recent and singular "Party in the USA") in which he says, of an awesome party, "they got potato chips sitting there, and guitars playing". It's a lot like that song "California Desert Party" where's he's like "Guacamole's there for you / carrot juice and nachos too", and to a lesser extent in "Party in the Woods Tonight" where he goes "the day it has gone, the night it has come / The woods are all dark, but you're still a bum / The moose go 'moo!,' the deers are there too / And the monsters are cooking up a disgraceful soup for you". Bottom line, it's important, if you're having a party, that there's snacks. Ideally chips. Ideally the chips are in a large bowl or rolled-down paper grocery bag. Mixing a variety of chips: cool. Mixing chips and candy: cool. eating snow peas at the beach: COOL. Snacks are very welcoming and a classic thing for humans to bond over. Also, only by including snacks can your party hope to address all five common senses.


As Hermes Trismegistus says in his text "Asclepius", a party is an intelligible sphere whose center is everywhere. But a show has a specific and placeable center that everyone stands around and looks at, so although it seems weird to call something you really like "not a party", let's face facts, it's not a party. If you have a bowl of chips that's no good, there'll be too heavy a party vibe and no one will kick in the \$5 or whatever for the bands. HOWEVER if you sell good cheap food that you don't need a fork to eat, everyone loves it. Talk to the show promoter, put it on the flyer, bring a hotplate or toaster oven, kick down to the bands, it rules. Tacos, tamales, tapas, popsicles, french bread pizzas, dumplings, Vietnamese tofu sandwiches, whatever. Diego reports: "Legend has it that King Alphonso X (of Castille) mandated that when alcohol is sold in taverns, food must accompany the drink, to avoid illness". That sounds about right, and you know that the dude's legit about health because they named that religious soap after his kingdom or whatever.

### ICE COFFEE

NEWS FLASH- ICE COFFEE IS JUST COFFEE WITH ICE IN IT! I'm not saying it's not good- it's good. But whycome you get a fresh coffee and it's \$1.70, then you wait a while and it's \$4 or whatever? If you're at your house, make strong hot coffee and pour it in a pint glass full of ice, then ad your preferred whitener, it's not rocket science. Sometimes you need to leave the house for a beverage, I understand that. But quelle le diff?












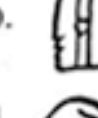


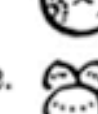


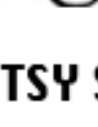
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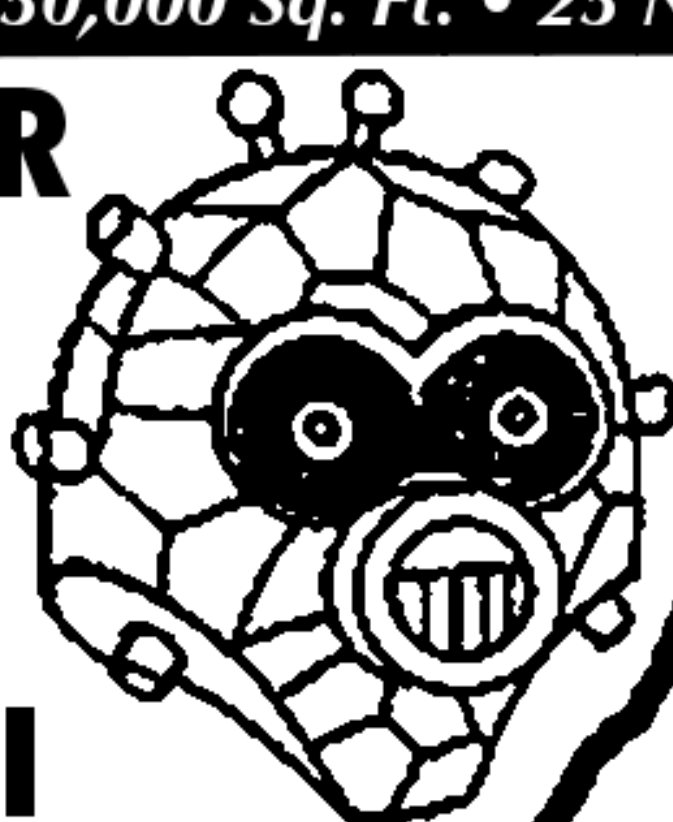
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BIOGRAPHY

LIZ TAYLOR  
(1932 - 2011)



SCENE REPORT :  
OXFORD BREAKFAST

Carl's Oxford Diner, aka "Carl's O" is duh, a diner, in duh, Oxford MA. The food is cheap and plentiful, OH BOY is the food plentiful. in addition to the food being plentiful, if you don't eat all that you ordered, they give you a hard time. In one instance Purtle (who is pure hearted and of a hearty constitution) was disallowed from leaving until he finished his eggs. And speaking of eggs, you're really going to not believe this but if you order 2 eggs you get 3 eggs. I think if you ask for 1 egg they give you 1 egg, but 2 eggs is always 3 eggs, which suits me fine since "my work needs an infinite amount of eggs to come to birth in eternity". sometimes you get a double yolk, which is auspicious. anyway, the important thing here is that it's impossible to actually get 2 eggs. "2 eggs" means "3 eggs", and there's no way to say "give me 2 eggs" that doesn't get you 2 eggs plus an egg. And if you order 3 eggs? well, sometimes they are 5, sometimes they are 3. sometimes they are all of them at once! They will bring you that forever coffee, and once again, they will give you a dull chiding Lutheran Hell if you do not clean your plate.

Just down the road a littttle bit, a literal stone's throw (with a good arm) is a pretty good donut spot called N&J's, which is open 24 hours a day and is a nice place to sit at the counter (the only seating option). Oxford is a small town so pretty much everyone goes to this donut place and that's who you'll see, pretty much everyone: cops, kids, drug store guy, dads, children, and the full spectrum of motherhood. Coffee refills might not be free, so if you're thinking about paying \$2 rent on a counter stool all night reading HP Lovecraft and sipping an endless mug, look around and see what the current cultural practice is. On the other hand fresh donuts are real, huge donuts are real, triangle donuts are real. This is not the place that has the donut burger (a cheeseburger in between 2 sugar donuts) but why would you want that? Plan on going here immediately after going to Carl's O, just to see if fresh donuts are out. If they are you have to eat one, that's the law...

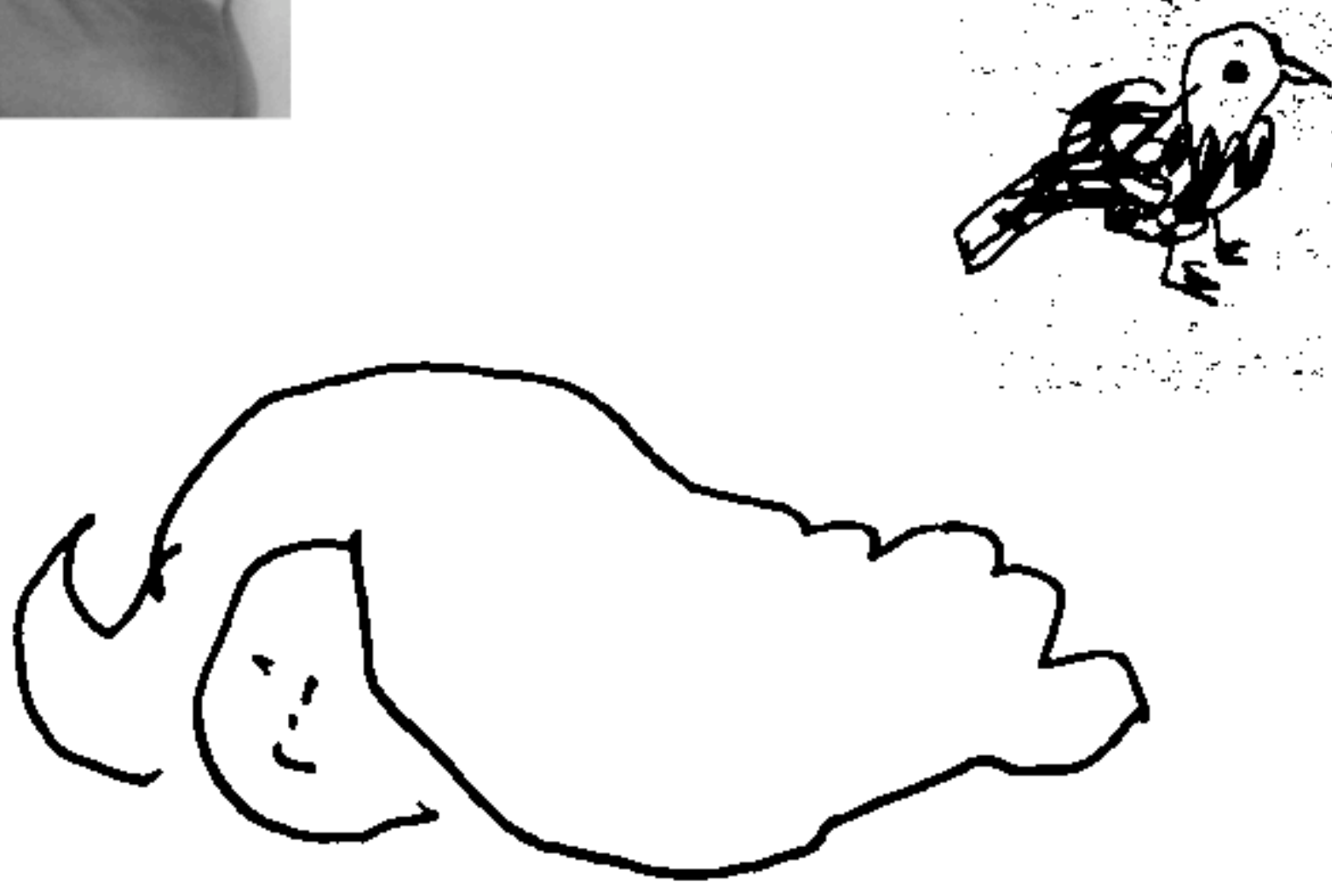
SOURCE WALL

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Elizabeth Taylor was the film star of the 20th century. She had dark blue eyes which were perceived as violet, and a gene mutation that resulted in double eyelashes. She starred in a lot of great movies starting at age 9, and she won awards. She was married several times, twice to wonderful actor Richard Burton. The Vatican condemned their relationship, which began when both were married to others, as "erotic vagrancy". She loved jewelry and perfume, and was a friend to Michael Jackson. Despite being mega mega famous, she remained a cipher, difficult to focus on or talk about. Burton referred to her beauty as a "dark unyielding largesse".

The mutation that gave Taylor her striking double eyelashes may also have contributed to her history of heart trouble, to which she eventually succumbed, at age 79. At her request, the funeral began 15 minutes after it was scheduled to begin; as her representative told the media "She even wanted to be late for her own funeral."



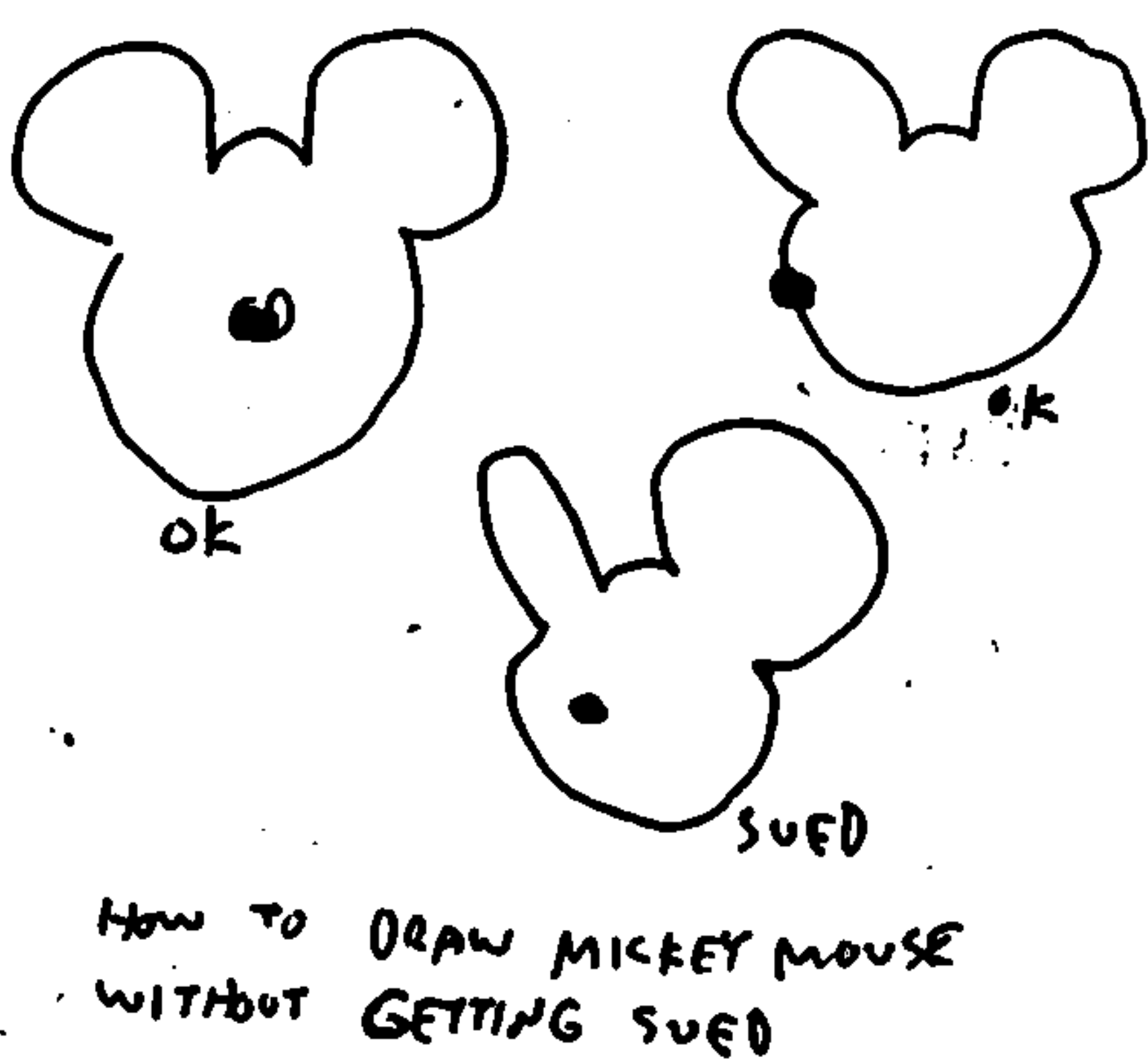
Send your scene report to Mothers News! The concept of "scene" is pretty variable. Real stuff only. No reporting on an event. No you being bummed out in your room.

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oh yeah, I made that poster.

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SOURCE WALL is a randomly generated table of 400 alphabetic characters. There are many different ways to use such a table- you could use it to select a random password, you could use it to create a month-long cipher solvable only by others with access to this issue of Mothers News (F4 G6 O8 B1 E11 E14 Q4 L9 I5 G9), you could search for words and near-words that may be relevant to your life, you can use it to select a new name-- there are literally infinite methods of use. For disbelievers in astrology who see the benefit of being guided by a truly random block of text assigned to a specific time period, SOURCE WALL may prove especially useful.

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MOTHERS NEWS  
COMICS PAGE

THIS MONTH: this  
NEXT MONTH: all this and more!

- Mike Taylor MONKEY VISION
- Jackie H Curtiss GRAPEFRUIT SEED
- Charlotte de Sédouy THÉÂTRE CARTON

~~~~~

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BLAWBLUH ABLABOLE!

FORSMAN

There are 3 residents of WITCH BEACH: Stephen the reluctant husband(not a witch), Eleanor the knowing wife and mother (witch), and their daughter Icky (witch but not good at it). Together they are a family who live in a giant witch hat on Witch Beach. They all struggle to make this mixed-up family work in whatever way they can.

A black and white comic strip depicting a group of ducks in a graveyard. On the left, a gravestone for 'R.I.P. KATHY WALLEN' is being torn up by a dog. The stone's inscription reads: 'R.I.P. KATHY WALLEN SHE ALWAYS SAID HER FEET WERE KILLING HER'. A duck on the far left exclaims, '!!! THERE'S A DOG IN THE GRAVE YARD !!!'. Another duck in the center says, 'IT'S POOPING ON THE GRAVES AND TEARING UP THE FLOWERS !!!'. A third duck responds, 'OH NO! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?'. On the right, a duck laughs, 'NOTHING!!', while another duck in the background laughs 'HAHA HA HA HA HA'. A small dog is visible in the background on the right, also laughing.

GRAVEYARD DUCKS is about some ducks that live in a graveyard. They are: Mathy- a cool duck; Donut- a duck from out of town, Dirkie- a duck named after Micky's mom; and Edvvard- smart for a duck. there is also SPHINX, who is a monument oracle

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# MONORAIL HIGH

THE POETRY TEACHER...

A 4-panel comic strip. Panel 1: A man with a pencil in his ear sits at a desk, scribbling. A clock on the wall shows 12:00. Text: "SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE". Panel 2: A close-up of a piece of paper with the handwritten text: "reTO my SOUL YOURS IS TRULY A GREAT GIFT - the poet". A hand is visible at the bottom. Panel 3: The man stands at the front of the class, holding the paper. A speech bubble says: "CLASS DISMISSED!". Below him, four students (two girls and two boys) are shown. Two speech bubbles from the students say: "TEACH US MORE!" and "IT'S TOO EARLY!". Panel 4: The man is in a bathtub on a checkered floor. A speech bubble says: "THE ARTIST NEEDS TO SOAK!".

MONORAIL HIGH takes place in a high school paid for by the monorail company. Principal, teachers, and janitors are employed, students attend by law.

THE QUIET TALK

1. SHHHH - I'M BEING QUIET -

2. QUIET LIKE A MOUSE!

3.

4. SHHHH - I'M A QUIET TET -

5. JUST LIKE YOU -

6. AH, A QUIET BRICK - YES, BUT IT TELLS A LONG TALK.

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KRAZY KAT is a cat of indeterminate gender. Ignatz is a mouse who hits Krazy with a brick. Offissa Pupp is a dog policeman who throws Ignatz in jail. The cat loves the mouse, the dog loves the kat, and the mouse hates them both.



IT'S MY PARTY by Melissa Mendes

Melissa Mendes' IT'S MY PARTY was previously (still?) called MERCYFUL FATE.



STOP LOOKING AT ME!

THE SAINT by Kate Schapira

The Saint of Hunger presses Kraft pimento-and-olive cheese in a jar, nut rolls, smells of meat from the crock-pot.

To let a chance go by is worse than trusting luck to feed you. Thank eating, knowing you could have been eaten. Stay out of the barrel. *The wicked Hotel Man hadn't got any meat for his customers, so he had killed the little boys and Pickled them and Peppered them and cut them into little Squares*

*and popped them into his Salt meat tub.*

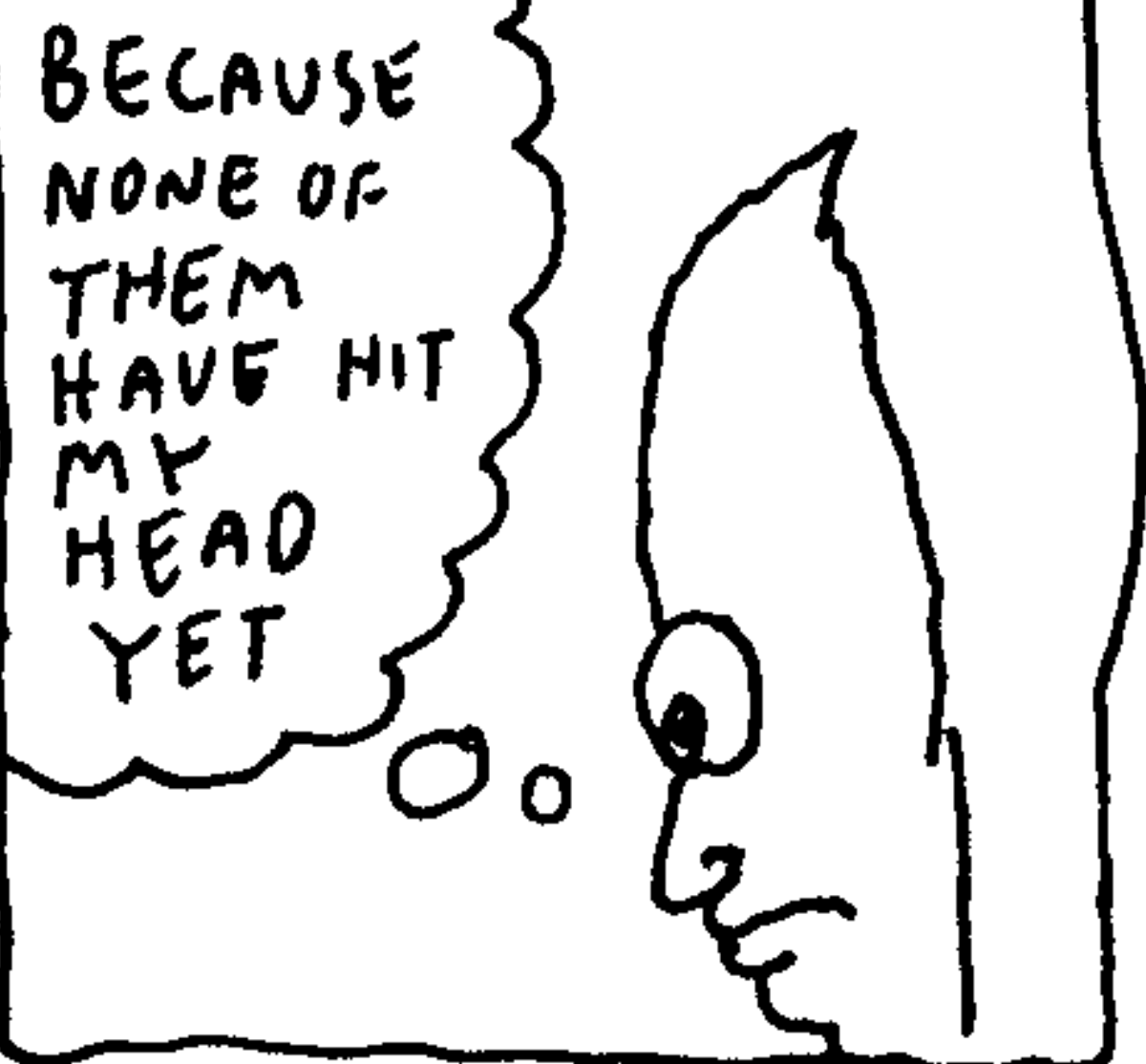
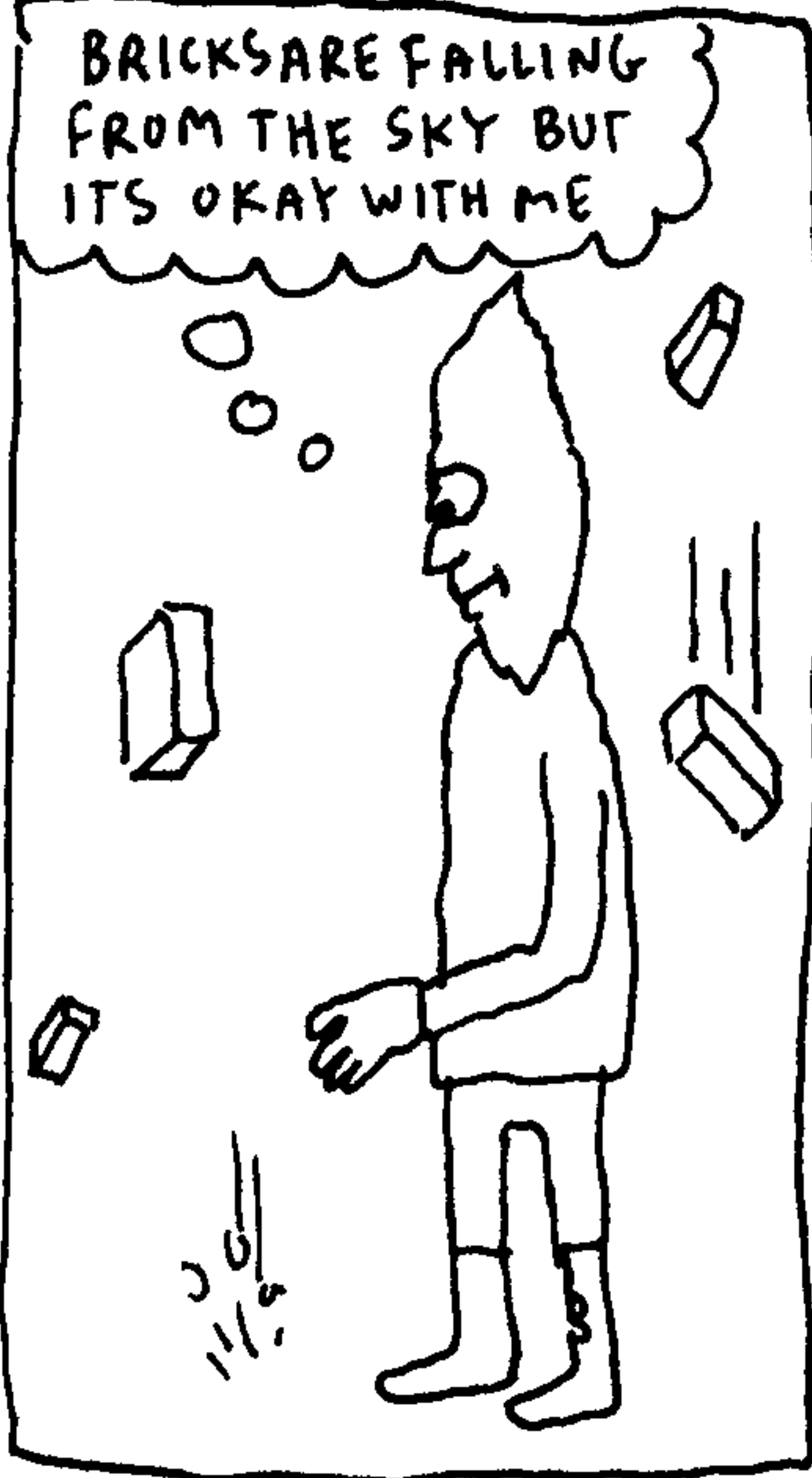
Kate Schapira's THE SAINT is an examination of Saints and Saintliness, told one saint at a time, a different saint each month. No pictures on purpose!

CITY SKETCHBOOK by James McShane



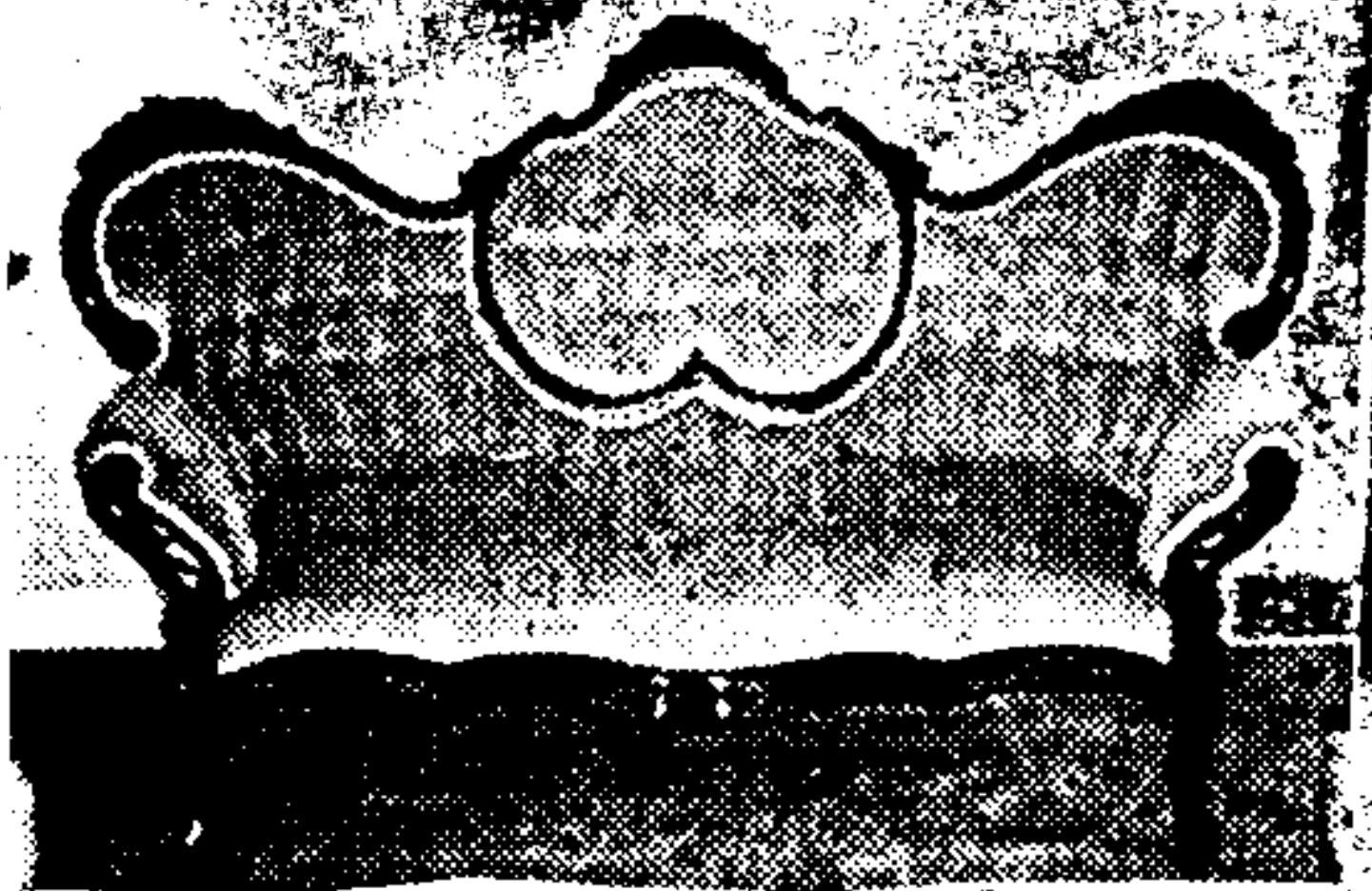
Drawings of people in the street. Drawn mid May, the afternoon, in Providence RI

INFO MANIACS by Matthew Thurber



press release: "SOMEBODY is MURDERING social networking profiles...an INTERNET SERIAL KILLER is on the loose! The STUDENT is going to rehab for computer addiction.... The MAN WHO HAS NEVER SEEN THE INTERNET's virgin eyes has been captured by sinister forces. Want to see what a "Thriller for the information age" looks like? . google it! INFO MANIACS...."

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Lazy Magnet LIVE @ mwm 6/13

w r stevie moore 6/13

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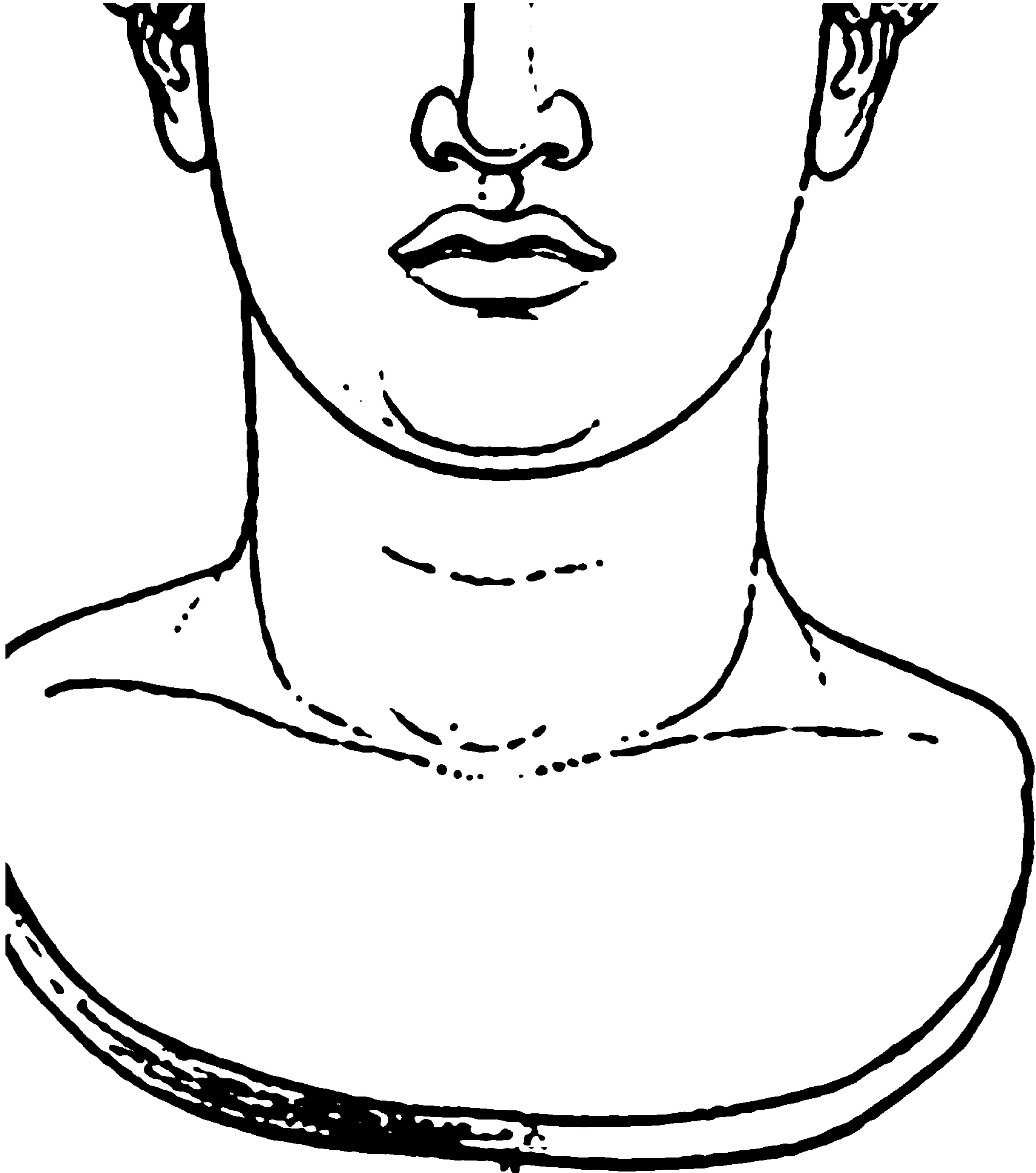
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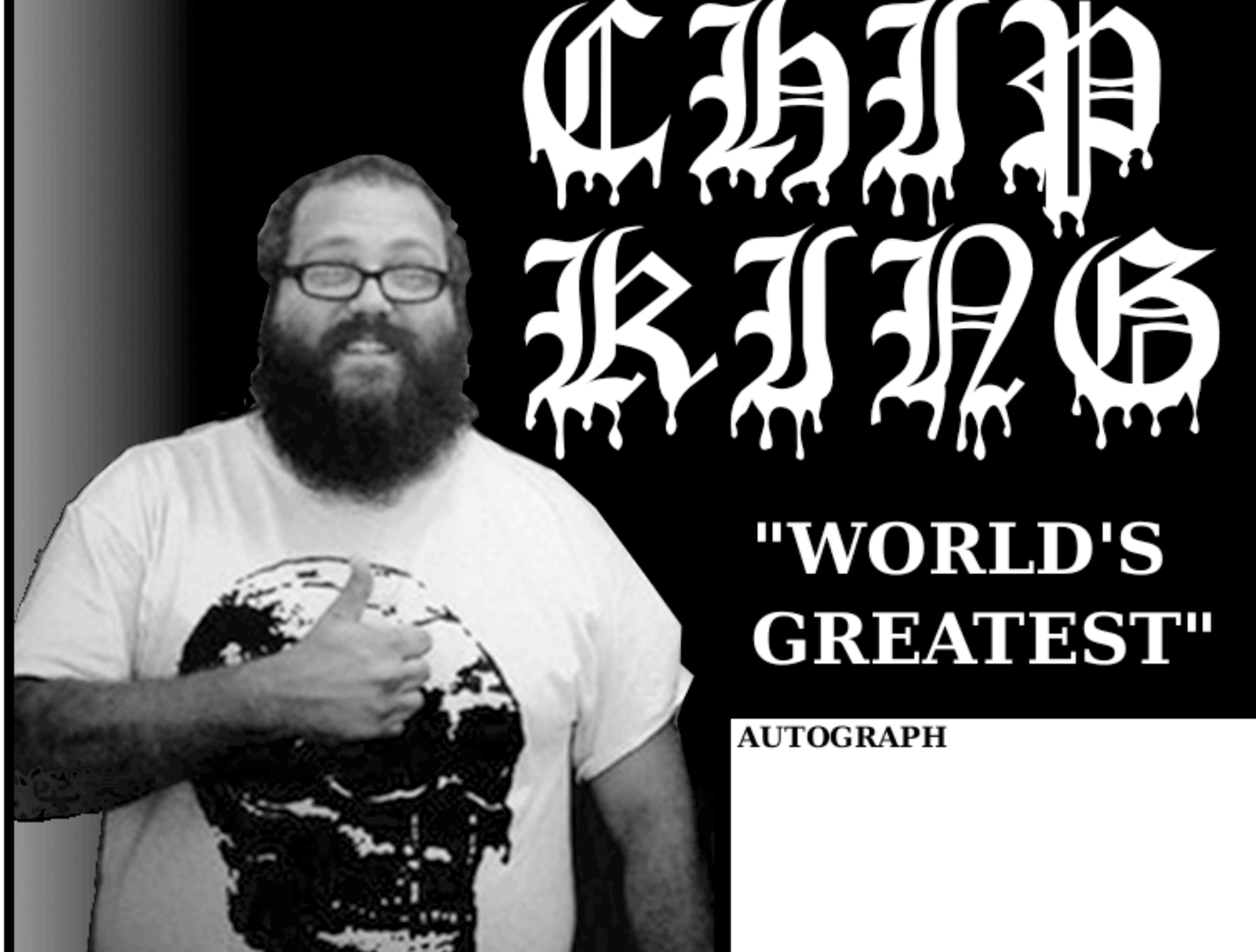
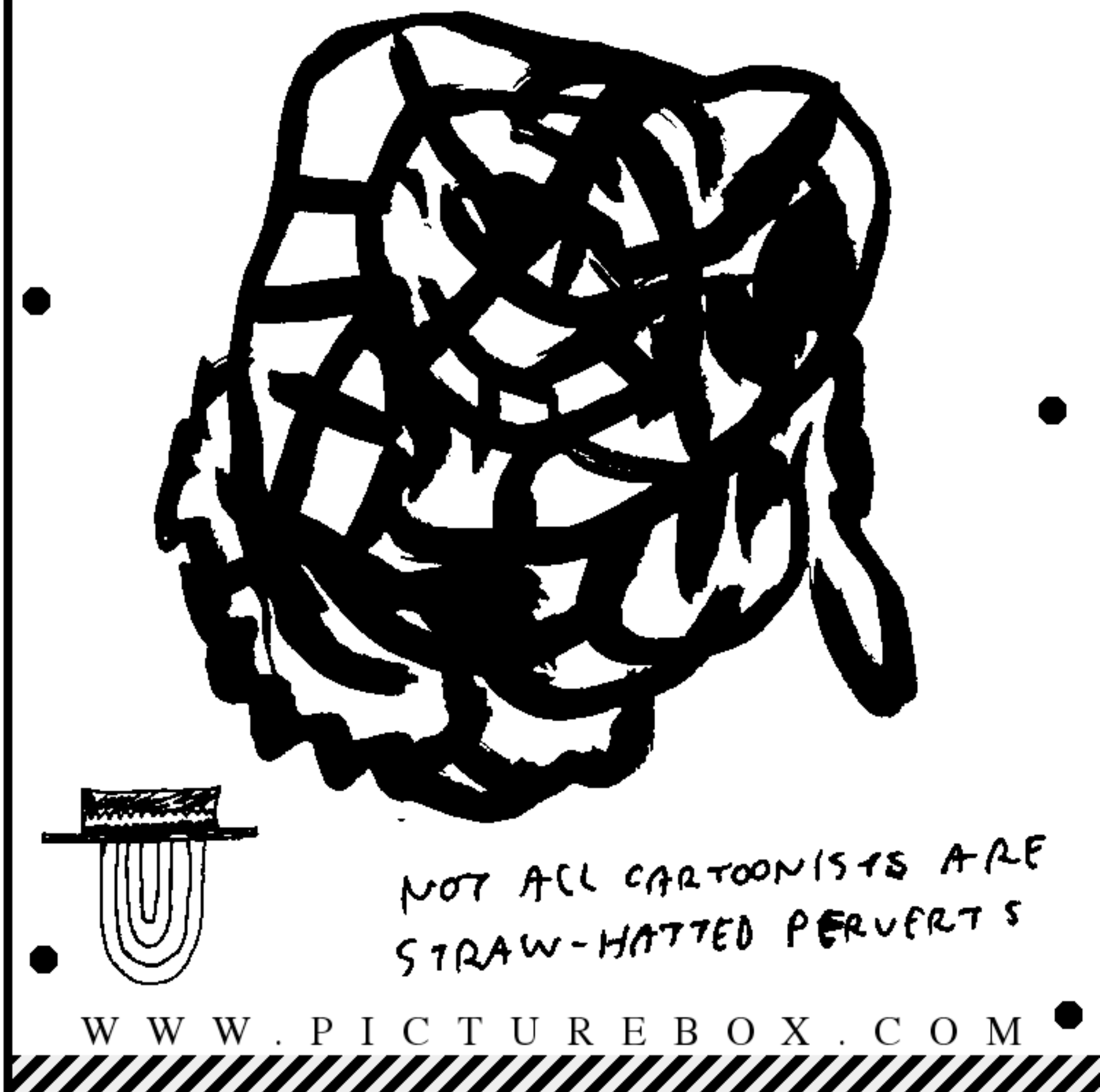
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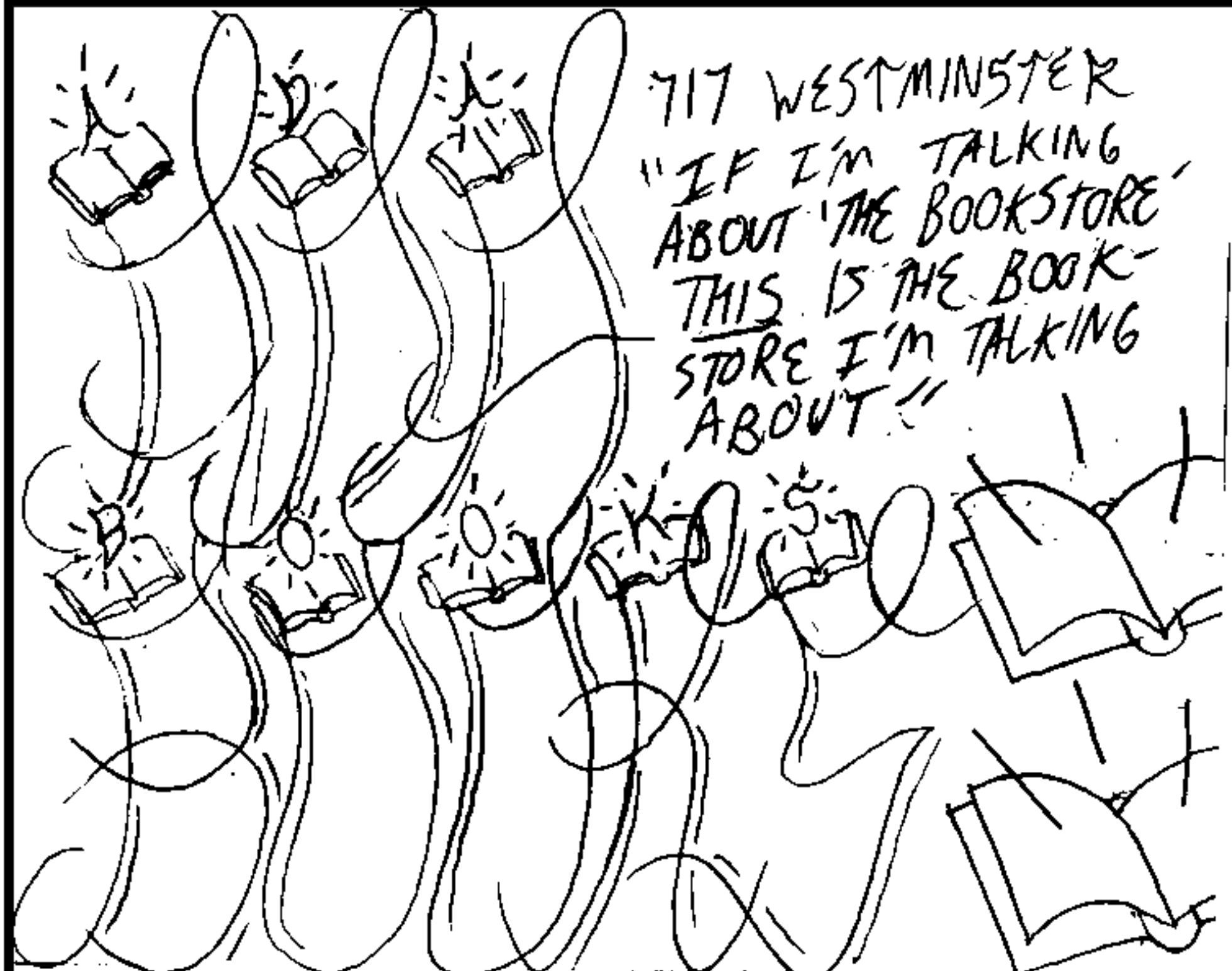
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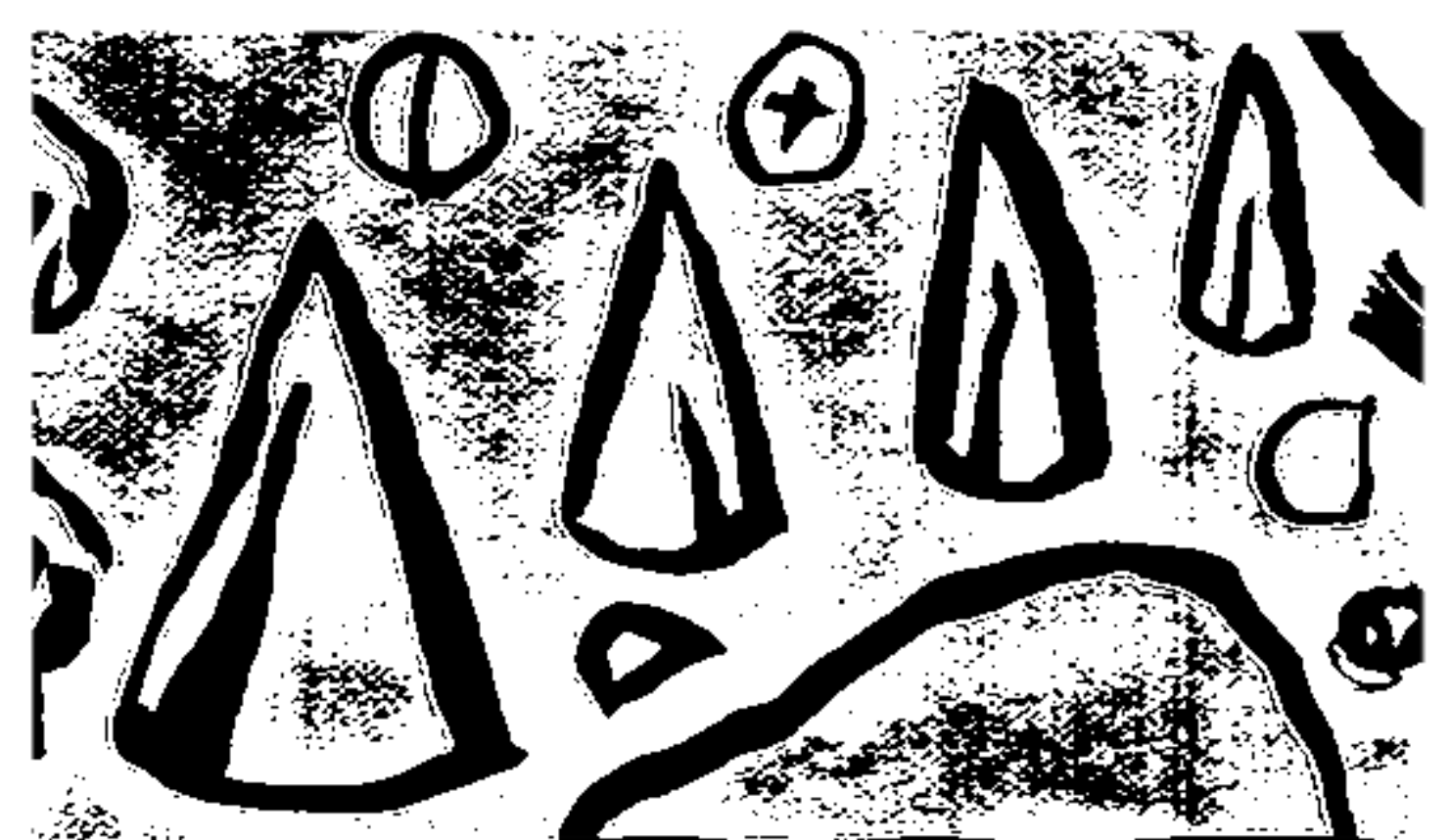
Your website describes Augurari as "appropriating the structure of a small record label." How is what Augurari does different than simply straight-up being a small record label?  
There have been visual artists incorporating sound and performance in their work for decades. Big names like Christian Marclay or Mike Kelley, for example. The narrow parameters I've set for Augurari derive from this breed of art. The objective is to publish audio recordings which are made by contemporary visual artists who, in some way use sound. It's really more of a curated art project that puts out small editions, rather than a record label that releases music by musicians within a genre. A curator is asked to participate and then they choose artists to work with, then we release the recording on cassette or vinyl in editions of 150.  
What's next?  
In the next few months, we'll be releasing recordings by artists Jim Drain, Ami Lio Young, Paul Salteson, Nicholas Frank, and Snakehole.  
augurari.com



**SHOUTOUTS**  
RIP IT UP, RABBITS! IT'S OUR YEAR AFTER ALL. RAGER RABBIT: JUNE 23 =MIDSUMMER MADNESS. LOOK FOR IT! RABBIT NEUTRON GOES 3-D!!!  
Shout out to T&C @ 2 Thrasher Ave! Happy Father's Day T! , ...:  
Jen H. says Oh Herro!! to Timmy B. , ...:  
<> SHOUT OUT 2 FORT THUNDER LIST-SERV ADMINS - <> ZZ POT <> , ...: MUDBOY <> - DR. NINJA

TO GET YOUR SHOUTOUT IN FOR THE JULY ISSUE, GO TO MOTHERSNEWS.NET. \$3 100 CHARACTERS. GET EM IN BY JUNE 20TH

PSSST! Mother's Good Word this month is "GORMLESS". If anyone asks you for "Mother's Good Word", that's what it is. And if you need a semi-public password for any reason, and you need it to expire in a month, please use Mothers Good Word.



CORRECTIONS: Way back in the November issue we incorrectly quoted a poem by Cool Breeze. The last line should have read "coffee makes me happy when I'm feeling sad". Our apologies to Cool Breeze who is a blessing unto the Earth and so say all who know him. Thanks Matt Coe, literary executor to Cool Breeze, for pointing out our error.

IMAGE ATTRIBUTIONS: thanks to our ad staff! in this case it was: James McShane- Rocket to Mars ad, Ambrose Bierce in a hammock; Ian Cozzens- White Electric ad; Tom Bubul (Be U Be Universal Love)- Augurari ad, Ada Books ad, Darcie ad, Meg ad, Joan ad; Jackie H Curtiss- all the other ads that weren't made by the people who designed their own ads. Phew!

MOTHERS NEWS IS COPYRIGHT 2011 THE EDITORS. published by RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL. NEXT ISSUE: sports column, chess column, more comics, "Ask Tomato Bread", more pages (?), more writers.

RIP Minoutte Dowdell, Leonora Carrington, Randy Savage, Dolores Fuller, Gil Scott Heron

**GOSSIP SECTION** by Josephine Mendes  
It's been nice having a vacation, now it's back on the whatever kind of animal a GOSSIP SECTION is... parties and stuff... AMIL BYLECKIE is working on creating a line of men's underwear and swim trunks. He's looking for models that aren't JACK WILMARTH in disguise. DARE U WEAR? NEAL WALRUS has sprained his beard while playing chess, everyone sign that card that's going around so we can give it to his beard and raise the beard's spirits. Stay strong, Neal's beard! NIK PERRY is tired of being asked to dress up as a baby for your pageant... Stop asking him to dress up as a baby, it would funny (if) but also it's not funny (wanting)... Towing a similar line, JONATHAN MOSCA's bodyhair is exceptional but we're almost over it as a topic of conversation, this might be the last time we talk about it before someone says "enough!". Hey the sun is glorious but after a while we start to talk about other things too you know... ... Speaking of things that are radiant, TATIANA YANISHEVSKY has a new job knitting 20:1 scale organic fiber genitals for a New York storefront window-- I can't say which store but it isn't Saks, that'd be too corny even for me. U Go Girl! ...DANIEL J CASHMAN was invited then disinvited to a snooty art show by some typical art blowhard and American giver, we all had a good laugh. Key lines from the rejection email: "Does your art have any content or does it just sit on top of trash" and "What is a porkatron?". Why would I make this up... The great JORI KETTEN nickname contest is still rolling... top contenders right now are JOR JOR BINKS and JORI LaFORGE and JORI DUTY and JORASSIC PARK and JKLOL. BRIAN TRIPPENDALE is working on a new comic about a cute little house with a garden, and he has a Kickstarter to raise research funds, aka dude's trying to get a house he doesn't get booted from famously... He's still at the attic for the time being, but the situation is foggy at best, give him a dollar, get nothing... ay you know AMERICAN ROB, the dude at seven stars with the Rollie Fingers mustachio? cool dude, nice vibe, cool nickname... you know how you really want to but at the same time don't be friends with the people at the coffee place because like the stakes are too high? Well, he doesn't work there anymore, so introduce without risk... Speaking of convos with dudes from a place, I had a nice talk with that CLARK KENT looking dude at Symbozium, in the course of which he produced a lunch that consisted of 1,) a half bag of potato chips (closed with a hair clip), 2,) an orange, and 3,) a can of orange soda. I was like whoa, you sure about that? Dude said NBD, I was like OK. Hey, here's good news- SUE BLANKS is happy in New York, she's been dumpstering the Natural History Museum which is not hard to believe, and she's teaching a taxidermy class where they give you a dead lab mouse and you put a tiny leather jacket on it and pose it like it's being misunderstood by another mouse in a plaid skirt. CUTE! On the topic of whimsical animals, SAM MERIQUOI from CAVE GRIS tried to give herself a stick-and-poke Lisa Frank tattoo but messed it up big time... it's a pegasus farting a cloud that says "PARTY" but she's been telling people it's a crocodile that says "AMEBIX" underneath. Nice try, Sam... KFO quit that NYC job as reported now she has some Boston thing that actually pays money... COOL... On the other side of the coin, famous teen witch MOSES is now unemployed, which is weird to say because her last job was smoking weed alone in a hospital for 3 hours a week and answering a questionnaire about what's more good to eat cheese nips or cheetos. Stay up Moses, at least you're still young enough to choose another career... IT'S THE ECONOMY... Hey speaking of perfect punks, Real Massachusetts High School teacher MUD DUCKERINO got his big straight edge tattoo covered up with the (huge) logo of his student/faculty bowling team. I'm going to say the name of the team so you know i'm not making it up, it's too stupid-- the team is called the Mingly Tinkly Zinkly Apples. Go Apples! I could easily get an apple tattoo... All Punks Please Leave Earth!!!! oh, wait, this is sad- FATHEAD'S BABY GEESE have passed away. Fathead found them on the way home from the bar and took them in, he took them to the bar, they shit everywhere, he loved them very much, they shit everywhere. So long sailors... GOOD LUCK!